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1988

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1-14-1988

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "01/14/1988 - Campus Group Plans Benefit Fashion Show" (1988). 1988. 13.
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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

ART TATE, Assistant Director, University Relations
Office: (217) 581-5981 - Home: (217) 348-7553

87-119

JAN 14 1988

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CAMPUS GROUPS PLAN BENEFIT FASHION SHOW

CHARLESTON, IL.--A benefit fashion show, designed to help the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program of Coles County and to enhance relations between Eastern Illinois University and the Charleston community, is being planned for 6 p.m. Feb. 18 in the EIU Union Ballroom.

The event is being sponsored by the EIU Student Senate and Black Student Union.

BSU Publicity and Promotion Chairman Paul Johnson said the primary purpose of the campus-wide event is to raise money for Big Brothers/Big Sisters which has 75 boys and girls who need to be matched with adult volunteers.

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According to Big Brothers/Big Sisters Executive Director Toqualee Lawrence, the organization matches children ages 6 to 16--many of whom come from single-parent families--with adult volunteers who serve as role models.

Only 45 of 120 children participating in the program have been matched with adults, she said.

"This event will be great for our organization. We would greatly appreciate any donation from the Black Student Union and the student government and are willing to assist them in any way," Lawrence said.

"Currently, one of the struggles we have been having is the elimination of federal revenue sharing," she added.

Lawrence said the organization received no federal revenue sharing this year and has to devise new ways to raise funds to maintain programs at their current level.

Johnson said the BSU and Student Senate have sold reindeer candy canes made by Big Brothers/Big Sisters participants, carnations and baked goods to raise funds for the event.

Letters have also been sent to campus organizations and local businesses asking for support.

Some area businesses have already provided clothing for the fashion show, while others have donated door prizes.

Campus and community response has been "positive," Student Body President Deb Camren said, "but we can always use more help."

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FASHION SHOW

Any business or organization wishing to help or donate to the fashion show may contact Johnson at 348-5245 or Camren at 581-5404.

Proceeds from the fund-raiser will go to Big Brothers/Big Sisters in the name of the campus and community participants.